Scientific and Progressive Mining Technology

1774. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is meant by scientific and progressive mining technology and since when it has been adopted indicating the names of the mines in which such technology has been adopted;

(b) what results have been achieved following adoption of such technology;

(c) whether it is a fact the technology has resulted in cheaper coal, spectacular safety records, better working environment and better productivity; and

(d) what are the reasons that inspite of our adopting scientific and modern technology, our productivity (O.M.S.) is the lowest in the world and the productivity (O.M.S.) of underground mines has remained static?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Scientific and progressive mining technology generally means extraction of coal reserves in rational and scientific manner so that coal is extracted with safety, optimum percentage recovery and in a cost effective manner.

Scientific and planned activities have resulted in increase of coal production from a level of about 78 million tonnes at the time of nationalisation in 1973-74 to over 238 million tonnes in 1992-93. During this period there has been an increase in productivity from 0.61 tonnes to 1.46 tonnes in Coal India Ltd.

Besides increase in production and productivity, the safety record of Coal India Ltd. has also shown significant improvement resulting in a drop in fatality rate from 2.37 per million tonne of output in 1973 to 0.69 per million tonne output in 1992. The rate of serious injuries has also dropped from 19.49 per million tonne of output in 1973 to 2.20 per million tonne of output in 1992.

Regarding cost of production of coal the same also depends on factors like increase in cost of wages and increase in cost of various other inputs due to general inflation in the country. However, an analysis carried out by Coal India Ltd. shows that there has been a reduction in the cost of production of coal in real terms to the extent of 2.84% in 1989-90, 5.48% in 1990-91 and 4.78% in 1991-92.

(d) Some of the important reasons for low productivity (O.M.S.) in Indian coal mines are as under: —

(i) Majority of the underground mines are worked manually.

(ii) Many underground mines are having geo-mining problems like steep and multiple seams, occurrence of fires and water logged workings in adjoining areas, built-up surface structures which need protection by sand stowing etc. requiring employment of sizeable workforce for dealing with such unproductive activities.

(iii) High rate of absenteeism.

(iv) Coa! Companies are required to provide supporting services for workshops, ware-houses and also municipal services like hospitals, water supply, colony maintenance etc. through departmental workforce, which gets added to the total manpower for computation of output per manshift lowering the overall productivity figure.

(v) Power shortages and frequent interruptions in power supply in Eastern region in ECL, BCCL and CCL mines.

कोयले पर रायल्टी का भुगतान

1775. श्री बहुमदेव आनन्द पासवान: क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दो टन कोयले से उत्पादित ऊर्जा एक टन कच्चे पेट्रोलियम से उत्पादित ऊर्जा के बराबर है ;